

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04709 171722Z

70

ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4778

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, RQ

SUBJECT: ASST. SECY STOESSEL'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR GRANFIL;
YUGOSLAV ACTIONS ON PUERTO RICO IN UN

REF: USUN 3852

1. EMBASSY SHARES CONCERN EXPRESSED BY USUN OVER VOTING RECORD OF YUGOSLAVS ON BOGUS ISSUE OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, HAS CONVEYED US POSITION FORCEFULLY TO GOY, AND CONCURS WITH USUN THAT THEY DESERVE TO BE REMINDED. WE ARE, HOWEVER, DISTURBED OVER ARGUMENTATION REFTEL WHICH REFERS TO "DENIAL SELF-DETERMINATION TO YUGOSLAV ETHNIC MINORITIES WHO STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD BECAUSE THEY FEEL DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS".

2. WHILE MOST OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS REGARD YUGOSLAVIA'S FEDERAL APPROACH TO SOLUTION OF DIFFICULT NATIONALITIES PROBLEM AS REASONABLE AND FAR FROM OPPRESSIVE, THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF YUGOSLAV NATIONALITIES, HERE AND ABROAD, WHO ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH DEGREE OF "SELF-DETERMINATION" IT PERMITS. MOST NUMEROUS, VOCAL AND ACTIVE OF THESE ARE CROATS, MANY OF WHOM WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH ANYTHING SHORT OF BREAK-UP OF FEDERATION AND FULL INDEPENDENCE. "DEMONSTRATIONS" STAGED ABROAD IN NAME OF CROATION
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 04709 171722Z

"SELF-DETERMINATION" HAVE INCLUDED TERRORIST BOMBINGS AND MURDER

OF YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR. WE ASSUME THAT MENTION IN REFTEL OF "DEMONSTRATIONS AT HOME" IS REFERENCE TO ZAGREB EVENTS OF DECEMBER 1971, WHEN CROATIAN PARTY ELEMENTS HAD LAUNCHED CROATIA ON PATH WHICH COULD WELL HAVE IMPERILLED UNITY OF COUNTRY.

3. IT HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN US POLICY TO AVOID ANY USG IDENTIFICATION WHATSOEVER WITH ASPIRATIONS OF THESE SEPARATIST ELEMENTS, TERRORIST-ORIENTED OR OTHERWISE, AND INSTEAD TO SEEK TO FOSTER UNIFIED, INDEPENDENT YUGOSLAVIA--NOT BECAUSE YUGOSLAVS DESIRE IT BUT BECAUSE WE REGARD THIS AS IN US NATIONAL INTEREST. MAINTENANCE OF THIS POLICY IS ESPECIALLY RELEVANT AT THIS STAGE SINCE FORCES OF DISUNITY COULD THREATEN COUNTRY'S VIABILITY IN POST-TITO ERA. EVEN FAINT SUGGESTION OF US SUPPORT FOR FORCES OF DISUNITY WOULD CAUSE BOMBSHELL REACTION HERE AND WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE LONG TERM US INTERESTS IN THIS PART OF WORLD.
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